

## **DRESS CODE – PROVIDING A DISTRACTION-FREE ENVIRONMENT**

Last month, the VUSD School Board met in closed session to propose a new dress code that will be implemented at EDHS and all Visalia Unified schools. Below is a proposal of the draft.

Visalia Unified School District is striving to become an exemplary district. Our goal is to provide a safe learning environment that inspires our students with the passion, power, and skills to make positive life choices. To accomplish this a differentiation between the school learning environment and other social activities must be established. The guidelines for school attire meet this purpose. The District Standard Dress Attire policy applies at all times on school campuses and at school-sponsored functions and will be enforced consistently and fairly by all members of the school staff.

In order to establish a safe and distraction-free environment, all students will abide by the dress code policies in the Student Handbook.

### **STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS**

Students will be dressed and groomed in a manner that is clean and neat and that will not be a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. ***This District prohibits any clothing or grooming that, in the principal's judgment, may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operations.***

The District prohibits pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that are lewd, offensive, vulgar or obscene. Any clothing that advertises or depicts tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under local policy.

The student and parent may determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the general guidelines set out above and the Districts dress code for students in the student handbook and/or discipline plan.

### **Student Dress, Safety, and Appearance**

- 1) Any apparel or unusual accessory that detracts from school decorum is not acceptable as appropriate dress suitable to the occasion.
- 2) Safety, cleanliness, neatness and good taste are the standards by which the school judges appropriate dress.
- 3) All students are expected to dress in a manner appropriate for school. Wearing apparel that distracts from the classroom atmosphere will be considered inappropriate.
- 4) Clothing must be neat, clean, and presentable at school. All clothes must fit appropriately.
- 5) Clothing that bares the midriff or reveals undergarments are inappropriate.
- 6) Any footwear that is determined to be a safety hazard is prohibited. Open toe and open back shoes are not permitted for safety reasons.
- 7) Tattoos must not be visible during school hours.

### **Clothing Guidelines and Expectations**

- 1) The nude look, see-through blouses, and revealing fashions without appropriate concealing undergarments are prohibited.
- 2) Low-cut sundresses are inappropriate.
- 3) Blouses that look like undergarments called camisoles.
- 4) Walking shorts or skorts are appropriate dress as long as the following are observed:
  - a) Dresses, shorts and skirts must be no more than 3 inches above the knee. Measurement will begin from the top of the knee.
  - b) Spandex, elastic or stretch type shorts are not allowed.
  - c) Cut-off shorts are not allowed.
  - d) Note: The principal may suspend the wearing of walking shorts or any clothing apparel to school that is deemed inappropriate and warrants such action.
- 5) All clothing must have finished hems and be free of rips, holes, frayed edges, or tears.

- 6) Overalls with suspenders are permissible, provided that suspenders and bibs are worn appropriately with straps over both shoulders with a shirt.
- 7) Loose fitting clothing is unacceptable and a safety hazard. Please follow these guidelines:
  - a) Oversized baggy pants or shorts are not permitted. Clothing must fit so that the trousers and shorts remain at the waist when standing erect, walking or running. If they fall below the waist they do not fit.
  - b) Any oversized tops such as a shirt, a jacket, hoodie, sweatshirt or vest are not acceptable.
  - c) Sags are unacceptable and prohibited.
- 8) Any and all tank tops are not acceptable without an undershirt.
- 9) Clothing that contains features identified as "gang-related," violent, satanic, ritualistic, macabre, or sadistic shall not be permitted. This includes but is not limited to:
  - a) Eight ball emblems;
  - b) Names denoting any known gangs or gang signs;
  - c) Flags and or works which are racial or could be construed to be racial;
  - d) Words and symbols which are related to homie shirts, Joker characters, drama faces, etc.;
  - e) Rosary beads should not be worn;
  - f) Necklaces and/or bracelets, with or without any type of vial that contains liquid or with known gang colors or symbols are not allowed.
- 10) All students must wear shirts tucked in while on campus or school related activities. Pant pockets and waistbands must be visible at all times.
- 11) Athletic apparel including shorts, warm-ups, pants, jerseys, and wind suits may not be worn on campus with the exception of physical education or athletic classes as appropriate.
- 12) Jackets are permitted only during cold weather.

### **Hair Styles**

Students must be neat and well-groomed at all times. Students must avoid hairstyles that distract or detract within the school environment. They cannot reflect the influence of exhibitionists and grotesque hairdos. The following are guidelines for student hairstyles:

- 1) Inappropriate hairstyles that the administration believes are a distraction to the learning environment are prohibited. Inappropriate hair styles include, but are not limited to: mohawks, spiked hair, excessively bushy hair, shaved names/symbols on the scalp, unnatural hair colors or shaved eyebrows.
- 2) Hair "tails" of any kinds or patches of hair are not allowed.
- 3) The length of a boy's hair shall be no longer than the top of the shoulder.
- 4) Hair must not cover student's eyes.
- 5) Beards are not allowed.
- 6) Mustaches must be well groomed.
- 7) Students must keep their hair well groomed.

### **Shoes and Clothing Accessories**

- 1) Footwear not intended for use out of the home is prohibited. In addition, any footwear that administrators deem inappropriate or a possible safety hazard to students while attending school is prohibited.
- 2) Hats or caps of any kind or bandanas of any shape, size or color, are not allowed on campus.
- 3) Boys are not allowed to wear earrings of any kind.
- 4) Ear spacers are prohibited.
- 5) All students (girls and boys) are not allowed to display any visible body piercing or extensive tattoos.
- 6) Body piercings include but are not limited to nose rings, tongue rings, eyebrow rings, etc.

### **Miscellaneous**

- 1) Walkmans, radios or any other electronic device of any kind will not be allowed on campus.
- 2) Chains will not be allowed to hold wallets or other items.
- 3) Sunglasses are not permitted inside of school buildings or classrooms.
- 4) Backpacks must be clear or mesh.
- 5) Students are not permitted to possess or use laser pointers while on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities, whether on or off school property. Laser pointers will be confiscated and students will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct.
- 6) Students are not permitted to possess any aerosol products.

